



State of California
Respiratory Care Board

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Inquiry: According to the Respiratory Care Board (RCB), is it within the scope of practice for a Neonatal Respiratory Therapist to perform "suprapubic pressure", under the direction of a physician in the delivery room in a Labor and Delivery setting? There has been some discussion about this within our hospital setting and within our local community.

Response: The performance of "suprapubic pressure" under the direction of a physician in a labor and delivery setting:

Classification 1C (Not verbatim from the Respiratory Care Practice Act but, in the Respiratory Care Board's judgment, inferred and allowed)

The intent of the practice act recognizes the existence of overlapping functions between physicians and surgeons, registered nurses, physical therapists, respiratory care practitioners, and other licensed health care personnel to permit additional sharing of functions within organized health care systems (3701, Article 1, General Provisions). As such, the onus is on the organized health care system to determine and institute appropriate policies, practice guidelines, training and competencies that would provide this function in a manner that would be safe when administered to the public.

Reference # 2002-C-04